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Boston Weekly Globe. TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 1882.

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We respectfully ask readers to become permanent agents, and to push THE GLOBE every month of the year.

A NEW STORY—"A Boy Hero"—March 21.

A NEW STORY IN PREPARATION BY OLIVER OPTIC, IN APRIL.

Address, THE WEEKLY GLOBE.

If recent cable reports are to be credited, Russia indorses Skobelev's speech to the Serbian students, and is prepared to take the consequences. Russia, in fact, has placed a cusp on his shoulder.

Jay Gould let a few friends of his into his private office the other day and showed them several huge packages of stocks and other securities. Two detectives, "armed to the teeth," stood guard over the precious store and kept their eyes on Sage and his companions. Even Gould knew that it would not be safe to trust street gamblers with loose collateral if the means of egress were reasonably handy. The committee report Mr. Gould pretty "solid."

A Washington correspondent says that Blaine's reference to the Chattanooga campaign of General Rosecrans has so alienated Garfield's closest friends that the Maine scheme will be vigorously opposed by the leading Half-Breeds if he should come up as a candidate for the nomination in 1884. With the Guiteau and Garfield Republicans against him, we don't very well see how he can go into any national convention with a substantial following. But, then, Blaine is a very active worker.

The action of the Republican caucus in voting to antagonize the Carlisle bill for the reduction of internal revenue puts the party in direct opposition to the ways and means committee, which was understood to have practically decided to report Mr. Carlisle's bill substantially as drafted. Judge Kelley of Pennsylvania was on record as in favor of a reduction in the tax on whiskey and tobacco, but the caucus vote makes it impossible to submit a bill containing a provision to that effect.

The small-pox scourge is making terrible havoc in several sections of Pennsylvania, and spreading with alarming rapidity. Bethlehem seems to be the principal sufferer so far. Business is almost wholly suspended, the schools are closed, all the manufacturing have ceased operations, and the strictest quarantine is maintained. Diamond-town, Mount Carmel and other localities have become infected, and the disease seems to be extending to the surrounding towns. Our health officers should be particularly careful and vigilant just now.

The assurances given by the Czar of his pacific intentions are not credited in Germany. Skobelev's speech was a menace to the Teutonic races, and the fact that Russian influence is exercised in behalf of the Slavic insurgents in the Austrian tributary provinces seems to afford sufficient proof that the general's sentiments are approved in high Russian circles. A war between Germany and Russia would seriously imperil the peace of Europe. France and England could hardly remain neutral, and Austria and Italy would be compelled to take a hand in the fray. The overtures recently made to the Nihilists by the Czar were evidently intended to prepare the way for a unification of Russia, so that if the relations existing between the two empires should become more strained, and finally result in an open rupture, the Russians could take the field without much fear of an internal revolution. A war between Germany and Russia must come some time, and it may come sooner than is anticipated.

It is a little strange that with all the organizations and societies to prevent "man's inhumanity to man," not one of these has ever yet attempted to do away with the cruelty of compelling drivers and conductors of horse-cars to stand during their hours of labor. This is one of the most inhuman practices that benevolent societies have not yet reformed. And it is made all the more inhuman by the fact that there is not the slightest shadow of excuse for it. Seats might be provided upon both platforms that would occupy but little space, and at the same time embrace immeasurably the comfort of driver and conductor, to say nothing of lessening the liability to disease which their exposure makes necessary. That men should be subjected to this unnecessary discomfort and injury is a ghastly sarcasm upon the humanity of which we boast. If horse-car companies will not provide seats for their employees, other States should follow the example of New Jersey, the Legislature of which has recently passed and the Governor signed a bill making it compulsory.

Senator Logan of Illinois is troubled over the surplus in the treasury, and he wants to divert it some purpose which will bring his party credit and his friends profit. He proposes to apply some of it to educational purposes in the South. He deprecates the lack of real displayed by some of the Southern Commonwealths in this direction. Millions should be voted for this purpose, he says, where only paltry thousands are now given. The New York Herald makes this point against the proposition, and gives Mr. Logan some sound advice at the same time. "If the debt of the Commonwealths cannot be induced to give generously toward the education of their children it is not probable that they would be spurred into more energetic action by allowing them to fall back on the national treasury. In a short time we may find them leaning on that staff of support altogether. It is amazing that a gentleman of Mr. Logan's democratic antecedents should broach such a proposition. The question of education is one with which the general government should not meddle. It is none of its business." Mr. Logan is probably troubled over the treasury surplus, and is anxious to make a raid on it in order that the antiquated tariff and the present oppressive internal taxation may be permanently fastened on the country. If he

wishes to do a real service to the country let him help to lift these loads from the people. The schools will then take care of themselves."

THE UPRISING OF LABOR.

The numerous labor strikes in the country are attracting considerable attention. Thousands of coal-miners, iron-workers and mill operatives are on strike. As business is good and there is plenty of money in the country these labor troubles are creating some surprise; but the reason for them is very simple. The fact is that after the panic of 1873 the working classes expected to labor for low wages until times were better, and did not grumble. Times did improve, and the moneyed interests recovered from the effects of the panic, but the capitalists have not kept their promises to the laborers. The price of living also increased, until now some of the necessities of life approximate in price to what they cost during the war and directly after it, but wages have not been proportionally increased.

Then, too, a most prolific source of strikes is the absurd tariff which has not benefited American labor and American industry in the least. The protectionists predicted. On the contrary, the burden of taxation has increased and the present tariff law has worked to the aggrandizement of the few as against the rights of the many. We have a good illustration of this in the strike of the mill operatives at Lawrence, as thus shown by the Lawrence Sentinel: "The stock of the Pacific mills, of a par value of \$1000, is worth \$2000 in the market today. For a period of twenty years the corporation has paid its stockholders annual dividends of from 16 to 24 per cent, and with its surplus earnings, after payment of these big dividends, has built additional costly mills, and is about to build another, and has otherwise increased the value of its property. And yet, with this remarkable record of past and present prosperity and great profits, the corporation proposes to cut down the wages of its operatives on the pretence that it cannot afford to pay the present wage rate. Here we have a fine illustration of how protection protects America."

Practical instances of this description conclusively show the manner in which the working classes are held in subjection. When the tariff is modified, because it stands now it only means low wages to laborers and a high cost of living, the condition of workingmen will be alleviated, better wages paid, our industries benefited, and strikes of rare occurrence.

PROTECTING THE THIEVES.

William A. Cook, special counsel for the government in the Star route prosecutions, has retired from the service, and in giving his reasons therefor, places the present administration in a predicament that would be awkward for any but a Republican crowd accustomed to the most barefaced compounding of felonies for the sake of harmony in the party. Mr. Cook states that President Garfield instructed him to push the cases and convict the guilty parties, and no other consideration was to be taken. He was discharged in the war, but after the death of Garfield all his plans were systematically frustrated and his most efficient assistants frozen out, one after another. A. M. Gibson, who was most active in exposing the rascality of the postal service, was squeezed out of the case, and all the detectives employed to watch the jury and witnesses were removed. The fact that Philadelphia detectives were imported to take the places of those who were discharged is in itself a sufficient proof of the corrupt and mercenary policy of the present administration. The Philadelphia would be hard to find outside of State prisons and the United States civil service. Surrounded by such agents and hampered in every possible way by the officers selected by the new administration to "assist" him, Mr. Cook realized that the prosecution must fail ignominiously, and felt compelled to retire from the case.

The administration may and probably will receive the hearty support of the Star route thieves by assisting them to escape, but if Mr. Arthur is mixed up in this business he is making the biggest mistake of his life. The American people have submitted very patiently to be plundered and swindled and deceived by Republican rings, but this trick of perpetually protecting the pirates and frustrating every effort to put a Republican into the penitentiary has been played too often, and one of these days some eminent savior of the country will get hoisted out of the presidential chair by a fifty-million vote power kick that will cause him to loathe the entire universe one gigantic expedited Star route.

President Arthur says little, and consequently gets credit for doing a powerful lot of thinking, but if he thinks to win the respect and confidence of the people by permitting all the thieves in his party to escape, he must be in a very complicated state of mind.

M. DE LESSEPS'S SCHEME.

The lack of progress, so far as the work on the Panama canal project is concerned, is beginning to attract considerable attention. The latest advice indicate that De Lesseps's grand scheme is almost if not quite a failure. It is generally conceded that neither the United States nor any other nation has any objection to the construction of the canal. The benefits to be derived from it are obvious. The reason why it is nearly a failure seems rather strange when the efforts to connect the Atlantic with the Suez canal are remembered, and it appears from apparently trustworthy reports that even that accomplished gentleman is not infallible, and has erred in judgment to a surprising degree.

The Panama correspondent of the New York Herald thoroughly, yet delicately, points out the fatal mistakes that the great canal constructor has committed, and which have paralyzed the enterprise. It transpires that M. De Lesseps, who is of a very sanguine temperament, has jeopardized the hopes of a great undertaking "by counting everybody's head and officers discharged. Then, too, it is commonly known that the wealthy prisoner has been treated better, especially in New York prisons, than his impecunious fellow-concave. A man who has spent six years in the Sing Sing penitentiary and the Auburn prison tells the New York Herald of his experience, which certainly is rather remarkable, but in keeping with other narratives which have been related by the treatment of convicts. Soon after his incarceration it appears that he was introduced to what was called a quarry ring of "guns," publicly known as burglars. One of them paid his admittance fee of \$25, believing that he (the new member) would get it from friends and repay it. These "guns," according to the ex-convict, did not eat at the regular table, although they appeared to do so; did not work, but were duly warned of the approach of the warden, and appeared to be sleeping when the warden came, not one of them having from \$500 to \$5000 in their pockets; smoked, cheated, played cards, lived well and drank champagne, which was made by a prisoner named John Short, who "paid the keepers \$500 or \$600 a week for the privilege, and he sold the miserable stuff to the convicts who could afford to buy it for \$2 a bottle, and sometimes more. When he left prison he had a small hand bag full of bills which he had acquired in this way." The information that the "Sok" in Sing Sing is a well-known fact that he used to range around the hills or go fishing on the river during the hot summer nights. His food, wines and cigars were sent up to him from New York. In Auburn he "roomed" in the hospital (he never spoke of his cell), and the ladies used to come in from

the surrounding country to see "the curled darling," as he was called. The old charge is reiterated that the public have no conception of the horrors that really exist in Sing Sing. It is charged that the same condition of things exists at Auburn, though to a less extent, because the newspapers and public keep a constant watch on its affairs, hence the punishment is not so severe nor the abuses so notorious.

OPIMUM EATING AND SMOKING.

The reformers, particularly those of the Faxon stripe, who are struggling to make the world pure and good by abolishing the liquor traffic, should not confine themselves to this evil alone, but direct their attention to the alarming growth of the opium curse. Occasionally the newspapers take up the subject, and show the evil which this drug is causing, but there is no popular movement towards checking the ruin which follows its use. The alcoholic drinker does not, as a rule, disguise his weakness, but the consumer of opium resorts to all sorts of subterfuges to conceal the deadly drug, and therefore its consumption has secretly grown to enormous and alarming proportions. Medical men, all others, know the extent of this traffic. A New York correspondent, who has interviewed an authority on the subject, throws some additional light upon it which is valuable. It is stated that many persons who innocently take morphine for their nerves are unaware that morphine is opium in the form of a sulphate, and is seven times as strong as the gum opium. Utah, 1881, says the correspondent, gum opium alone was used by those addicted to the habit. In that year occurred the first importation of morphia—only twelve ounces. The importation of gum opium for the same year was 109,536 pounds. In 1880 there were 2,000,000 pounds of opium alone 533,451 pounds of opium and 8822 ounces of morphia. In 1876 it was estimated that there were 225,000 opium eaters in this country. Today the number is placed by good authority at not less than 500,000. Opium annually takes 3500 pounds of opium, 5500 ounces of morphia and 500,000 pills of morphia. St. Louis is credited with 20,000 and Chicago with 25,000. Since the war, the South has consumed great quantities of the drug. In comparison to population Texas uses the enormous quantity of leading all other States in the use of this insidious poison. These figures show the extent of the habit as grown may be gained. But the official figures do not tell the whole story. In San Francisco it is largely used, and great quantities of opium are smuggled into this country. It is used by the Chinese alone for the purpose of securing a temporary relief from their suffering. It is also used by physicians, lawyers, politicians and many others of the educated class habitually eat or smoke it, while many of the finest ladies in the land are addicted to the habit. This subject is certainly one of the gravest character. It is sensibly argued that the duty of overcoming this evil lies largely with physicians, who must discover some substitute for morphia, which is now so freely prescribed in various diseases. Constant agitation of this topic would doubtless result in producing a healthy and effective check on a demoralizing and debilitating habit.

IN THE INTEREST OF HEALTH. In an able essay on "The Struggle for Life Against Civilization and Aestheticism," read before the Academy of Medicine, Dr. F. H. Hamilton of New York has touched upon some topics that are of vital interest to students and conservators of the public health. From a sanitary standpoint his observations are well valued. For example, he says that "when in the progress of civilization, the first places disappeared, with their great open throats—the best ventilators ever invented—and decorated cast-iron stoves were substituted, house sanitation experienced a loss which no sanitary engineer or architect has ever repaired; and when, in obedience to the same inexorable demands of progress in luxury and aestheticism, gas was substituted for oil and hot air or hot steam furnaces for stoves the house was again made unhealthful on the point of human life." Hygienists have often pointed these things out, but fashion, that domineering mistress, has disregarded the laws of health and aestheticism has now come forward and is aiding her. The lecturer says that the efforts to heat our houses have deprived us of a large proportion of oxygen and "the plumbago have at last rendered actually poisonous what remained by connecting the interior of every room in our houses with the sewers." Water is thus vitiated by these heated and polluted air, and the result is that the water that we never saw in a glass of diptheria in New York City until the Croton water was introduced. He is not sparing of his criticisms upon what our present social habits demand of adults and children in the way of dress, and points out the diseases and discomforts which they entail. Dr. Hamilton's attitude for the unwholesome atmosphere of houses is worthy of serious consideration. It is—"First—that all plumbing and all direct or indirect contact with the sewer shall be excluded from those portions of our houses which we habitually occupy. In other words, that it shall be placed in a separate building or annex. Second—that we return to the open fireplace, or the grate as a means of warming our private houses. Third—a diminished consumption of oxygen by gas burners." These important questions ought to be discussed by the people of the whole country, and of cities especially. Reforms in this direction will be conducive to the public health.

SING SING RUTHLESSNESS.

The stories that ex-convicts tell when released from prison must always be taken with considerable allowance, but when they all tally exactly, as far as essential facts are concerned, the public cannot refrain from believing that there is some truth in them. We are all familiar with stories concerning Sing Sing and its management, and have read in the papers of escapes that have been committed, and have seen the officials, and the charges have not been infrequently made and officers discharged. Then, too, it is commonly known that the wealthy prisoner has been treated better, especially in New York prisons, than his impecunious fellow-concave. A man who has spent six years in the Sing Sing penitentiary and the Auburn prison tells the New York Herald of his experience, which certainly is rather remarkable, but in keeping with other narratives which have been related by the treatment of convicts. Soon after his incarceration it appears that he was introduced to what was called a quarry ring of "guns," publicly known as burglars. One of them paid his admittance fee of \$25, believing that he (the new member) would get it from friends and repay it. These "guns," according to the ex-convict, did not eat at the regular table, although they appeared to do so; did not work, but were duly warned of the approach of the warden, and appeared to be sleeping when the warden came, not one of them having from \$500 to \$5000 in their pockets; smoked, cheated, played cards, lived well and drank champagne, which was made by a prisoner named John Short, who "paid the keepers \$500 or \$600 a week for the privilege, and he sold the miserable stuff to the convicts who could afford to buy it for \$2 a bottle, and sometimes more. When he left prison he had a small hand bag full of bills which he had acquired in this way." The information that the "Sok" in Sing Sing is a well-known fact that he used to range around the hills or go fishing on the river during the hot summer nights. His food, wines and cigars were sent up to him from New York. In Auburn he "roomed" in the hospital (he never spoke of his cell), and the ladies used to come in from

JAY GOULD'S RICHES.

Poor Jay Gould! With \$54,000,000 in securities, and also other bonds for the transportation of which cars would have been necessary, he was annoyed and troubled by a report that he was in financial distress. He is certainly entitled to the profound sympathy of the people. It is impossible to estimate what he is worth, but he is sure of his board and clothes for some months to come. His \$54,000,000 alone figure out quite a handsome revenue. The securities he named pay 6 per cent per annum, consequently his income therefrom is \$3,240,000 per annum, \$100,000 a month, \$3750 an hour, or \$62 50 per minute. Each second in the day these securities are yielding more than a dollar, and say nothing of his income from other sources.

The cost of these fifty-four millions, which he reckons at 40, is an interesting feature of his exhibit. For the twenty-three millions of Western Union he paid about 40, for the twelve millions of Missouri Pacific about 25, and the eight millions of Manhattan Elevated about 20. So during the last few years it is evident that he has made a vast amount of money.

The reason for his showing his hand is not obvious. Obvious differ as to whether, as an abstract question, it was good judgment. Some would think it was, others think it strange that a man who had so much in hand should care what people said about his financial condition. The evident object must have been to strengthen the stocks and improve the

tone of the market. The last effect certainly appears to have been produced, even if it is only temporary.

NOTES AND EXTRACTS.

The Standard Oil Company started with a capital of \$1,000,000. Its actual capital is now estimated at \$35,000,000, and in eight years it has paid \$10,000,000 in dividends. The influence of this gigantic monopoly is something unprecedented in the history of this country.

Chinese men have been naturalized and have voted in Boston—a fact that seems to have escaped attention in the recent Senate debate.—(Saturday Evening Gazette.) Some men who have thousands of dollars to the poor when they die might, when alive, have found starving people within a block of their homes. To meet a currency panic the banks have \$174,000,000 of gold and legal tenders to protect their credit. Of this \$115,000,000, \$16,000,000 is in the hands of the banks, and the rest is in the hands of the public. With this vast amount of paper obligations, compared with coin on hand, are we not trying to balance the scale on the edge of a precipice?—(The Hour.)

A New York legislator figures the cost of his election as representative, including expenses in Albany, at \$1800; salary, per law, \$1500; deficit, \$300. He discreetly omits to state how much money can be realized if a legislator is obliging to members of the "third house."

Here is how, according to Eli Perkins, a young man with \$500 can make a fortune: "Let him go to northwestern Iowa or southwestern Minnesota and buy 160 acres of land. Let him plant fifty acres of black walnuts, 320 trees to the acre. When these 16,000 trees are twenty years old they will be fifteen inches in diameter. They will be worth \$5 a tree, or \$80,000. At thirty years old they will be worth \$20 a tree, or \$320,000. Every year after the trees are ten years old the nuts will bring in more than a wheat crop."

It requires the slaughter of 100,000 elephants yearly to supply the world with ivory. An observing writer says: "It is a sad fact that it is a vast deal easier to have a hot controversy about religion than it is to be religiously. Religion is good as a profession, but as a practice it is the hardest task the world ever undertook."

Alexander H. Stephens said to have expressed his determination to retire to private life at the close of his present term in Congress. Everything is promised to the man who knows how to wait. It looks very much as if the South would not have long to remain in advance before witnessing such an uprising of local self-government, while supremacy and State sovereignty at the North as never, a few years ago, was dreamed of in the vocabulary of the average Democrat.—(Washington correspondent, Augusta, Ga., Chronicle.)

If the Democrats recover their majority in the House, it will be because the people are willing to trust them with the appropriations. The first thing the Democrats will do will be to show that a party they go in for economical and honest appropriations, and are dead against the robberian principles of the majority.

It is estimated that the Chicago gamblers fleece the public out of \$8,000,000 a year. No wonder they are mad with the Mayor for interfering with their business.

There are people in this world who actually fret themselves to death. Beware of the habit of complaining. It will grow on you and make your life a sour one to you and render you disagreeable to others. Cultivate cheerfulness.

It is said that in some parts of the South if one should show "Cato's" even the males would halt and look around to see what was wanted.

Senator Hoar says the Chinese "are the most easily governed race in the world." Chief of Police Crowley of San Francisco says "they give more trouble than all other classes of people." The latter is in a position to know what he is talking about.—(New Haven Union.)

The Graphic says: "The brains of the Old Commodore, his energy, his ability, his industry, his capacity for affairs certainly have not descended to William H. Vanderbilt." That may be so, but the money has, and William H. can easily purchase the use of brains.

Last year the revenue derived from the tax on matches was \$3,278,550. One corporation that has a monopoly of the business paid the bulk of that sum, and now tells the congressional committee on ways and means that it does not want the tax abolished. Of course not. That would break up the monopoly.

A Memphis dandy, who stole a mile, tried to show a lawyer who once saved him from prison. The lawyer said he could not help him until he paid his fee in the former case. "Why, boss," exclaimed the disconsolate dandy, "I stole that mile specially to sell him and pay you." At last accounts he was still without a legal adviser.

In States where the death penalty has not been abolished murders are increasing, which puzzles those who do not believe in hanging. A man who was too poor to put anything into the church contributed nothing, and was too much poorer to be able to give anything. "You are generous, you know," "But, William, you owe heaven a larger debt than you owe any one else." "That's true, pastor, but heaven isn't pushing me like the rest of my creditors."

Some congressmen who are looked upon as great men at home are considered pretty small potatoes in Washington.

Refrigerating plants are a new enterprise which is getting in importance in California. It is claimed that the mild climate of that section is better adapted to refrigerating meats than the cold temperature of Chicago, St. Louis and other pork-raising centres in the East.

It is estimated that not less than 3000 children under ten years of age are employed in factories in St. Louis. They work from ten to eleven hours a day, and the wages paid average \$3 per week.

"Don't talk to me about the advantages of an education," indignantly exclaimed "certain manufacturer lately." "Here I spent \$9000 on that boy of mine. He came out of college with flying colors. I put him in charge of the factory while I went off to Europe on vacation, and what do you suppose he did? Shipped \$50,000 of my new patent improved snow shovels to South America."—(Philadelphia News.)

The surplus has grown so much every year from the internal revenue taxes that Congress will soon undoubtedly pass a bill doing away with many of the taxes which were the product of the war and are now no longer necessary. This will be a long step towards just and equal taxation.

President Arthur has not done anything for the South thus far except to obey Mahone's orders. Yarden Crocker firmly believes in Guiteau's sanity. He describes his conduct through many weeks as unvaryingly uniform, indicative of nothing that in any way approaches insanity.

"Inspired" cranks are becoming numerous in Europe, and now those foreigners who so severely criticised the conduct of the Guiteau trial can show us what they do with this class of criminals. If Democratic congressmen stick to their evident programme of opposing measures looking to centralization of power the people will not forget it. It is significant that labor strikes are not confined to any particular section, but are increasing all over the country. Capitalists may yet realize that it is good policy to "live and let live."

All sorts of public servants think it no evil to "beat the city, the State or the nation out of some consequences and injuries."—(Springfield Republican.)

The Graphic rightly thinks that the man of great opportunities and great possessions is deserving of severe censure if he permits his op-

portunity to be wasted and regards his possessions as only of use in gratifying low and ignoble tastes.

The cost of the Indian wars has been \$3,068,821, but it is estimated that four-fifths of the military expenditures in that period have been made in Indian account. The grand total is \$238,801,264, which shows that the Indians are rather expensive wards.

The "higher education" of women, so much talked of, might profitably begin by mastering what is necessary to conduct a household properly.

It is related that Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, while lecturing in Haverhill once, heard that an old schoolmate of his was a stove dealer there. With a friend he visited him and asked if he attended such a school when he was a boy. He said no. Asked him if he remembered a boy in the same class named Oliver Wendell Holmes? He did not. Had he ever heard the name since? He had not. Without inquiring further they left the man to the congenial companionship of his stoves.

The latest money swindle consists of cutting two-thirds from a bill and then one-eighth is cut from another bill of the same denomination, and the two pieces are pasted together, making an apparently genuine bank-note. Five two-dollar bills in this way are made to yield \$12, and five ten-dollar bills make \$60.

Word Hunt.

The great success which attended our word hunt of December has induced us to offer another array of substantial prizes for this month's competition, and we trust that the hunters will avail themselves of the opportunity to try for the prizes. For the three largest lists of words formed from the word BACHELOR we will award the following prizes:

1. Five dollars.
2. Three dollars.
3. One dollar.

CONDITIONS.
1. Only such words found in the body of "Webster's Unabridged Dictionary" will be allowed.
2. No letter must be used more than once in a word.

A BOY HERD; OR, FIGHTING FOR THE WIN.

BY EDWARD S. ELLIS.
AUTHOR OF "LOST ON THE PACIFIC," "PETERBURY,"
"ANGIE PARKER," "YOUNG PIONEER," "FIRE,
SNOW AND WATER," ETC., ETC.

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CHAPTER I. THE CALL TO SCHOOL.

A dozen boys and girls had stopped on their way to the Torrville public school to admire, in one of the many curious pictures pasted on an immense framework of boards, erected for the sole purpose of making such a display.

These flaming and gigantic posters were devoted to setting forth the unparalleled attractions of the Torrville public school, and were so arranged as to appear in the well-known "Hart's Hall-Acre," near the village of Torrville.

These scenes, in which elephants, tigers, lions, camels, sacred cows, and indeed an entire array of animals were shown on a scale that indicated they were as high as a meeting-house, in which the serpents, if unwound from the trees where they were crushing men and beasts to death, would have stretched across "Hart's Hall-Acre" (which really contained several acres)—those frightful encounters, in which a man, single-handed, was seen to be spreading death and destruction with a clubbed gun among the fierce denizens of the forest; all these had been displayed on the side of barns and covered bridges, and were so arranged as to be in every possible available space for the past three weeks; and, as the date of the great show was the one succeeding that of which we are speaking, it was not to be understood that the little village of Torrville had not the excitement of a show on a state of excitement such as had not been known since the advent of the preceding circus.

Regularly every day the school children had stopped in front of the huge bill-board and had examined and talked over the great show, while those who expected to go in the afternoon or evening looked down in pitying scorn on their fellow schoolmates.

The interest seemed to intensify as the day approached, and now that it was so close at hand, the little crowd of school children were gathered themselves away from the fascinating scenes before them.

In one corner of the board was the picture of a hyena desecrating a cemetery, as it is well known that these animals are very fond of the dead, and the picture was so arranged as to be a creature, naturally enough, became very distasteful to the boys, who showed their ill-will in many ways.

Several almost ruined their new shoes by kicking him, while others had pelted him with stones, and still others, who were not so well behaved, had let him know that they were not so well behaved.

It was a warm summer morning and most of the boys were bare-footed, but had their trousers rolled over their knees, and, generally, were without coats or hats.

"Tomorrow afternoon the show will be here," said Sam McClary, as he slipped his hands and shook his head, and then he turned to his schoolmate and said, "I wish I could see it."

"I wish I could see it," said Sam, "but I can't go, for my father said he wouldn't give me the money."

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four lads were in school, busily engaged in their studies and studying their lessons.

Mr. McCurtis strode in a minute later without a word, and in a minute more he was in the room, and was whirling every boy in it.

CHAPTER II.
STARTLING NEWS.

Fred Sheldon, who has been partly described in the preceding chapter, is the hero of this story. As already stated, he was 12 years of age, and was a plump, healthy, good nature, bounding spirits and mental strength.

He was bright and well advanced in his studies, and, as is generally the case with such healthy youngsters, he was fond of fun, which too often, perhaps, passed the line of propriety and became a mischievous mischief.

But he was without malice in his nature, and was a favorite with every one excepting his cross-grained teacher, who seemed to have taken up the business of teaching because he held such a high opinion of his own wisdom, especially if they were bright and talented.

Fred was the only child of a widow, who lived on a small place a mile beyond the village, and managed to eke out a living there, assisted by his mother, who was a very capable and industrious woman, having been killed during the late war.

A half-acre of land, which was a very good one, and was surrounded with trees, downy and climbing vines. The broad bricks of which it was built, and the solid and sturdy structure, through the snowy night, as ravenous as so many robbers, to reach the cowering women and children within.

The property had descended to the sisters in the late war, and the two ladies, who were well-to-do, and who were rich in valuable lands, if in nothing else. Their peculiar retiring disposition prevented them from making any acquaintance with their neighbors, but it was known there was much old and valuable silver, and most probably money hidden in the house.

Michael Heyland was their hired man, but he lived in a small house some distance away, where he was married, and they had a good deal of business in the village.

Young Fred Sheldon was once sent over to the residence of the Misses Perkins, after a heavy storm, and he was the only one who could get in for the old ladies. He was then only 10 years old, but his handsome, ruddy face, his respectful manner, and his cheerful disposition, had won him a great deal of their natural reserve, and he was a favorite with them.

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prone from the inside and asked who was there, and then he was told that it was Fred.

When his voice was recognized the boy was withdrawn and he was most cordially welcomed by the two ladies, and he was seated at the table, and he was asked to stay.

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window—the rattling being such that there was no mistake about it.

"It's that tramp," exclaimed Fred, all excited, stepping softly into the next room and looking out of the window, and he was told that it was Fred.

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